

evidenced by the attached copy of the US PTO stamped post card. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully ask the Examiner to acknowledge receipt of the priority document in the next Office Action.

In addition, Applicants filed an Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) along with a copy of each of four cited documents on December 15, 2000. However, a signed copy of the PTO Form 1449 was not attached to Paper No. 9. As such, Applicants also attach hereto a copy of the US PTO stamped post card that was filed with the December 15, 2000 IDS. Hence, Applicants also respectfully request that the Examiner return a signed copy of the PTO Form 1449 with the next Office Action in order to confirm the Examiner's consideration of each listed document.

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Claim 4 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as purportedly anticipated by Yanagihara et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 5,557,420). The Office Action asserts Yanagihara teaches each feature of claim 4 and concludes that Yanagihara anticipates the claimed invention. Applicants respectfully traverse.

Claim 4 is directed to a video signal coding method in which an input digital video signal is coded using quantization. In Applicants' method, quantization is performed while selecting a quantizer which enables the code amounts that are obtained by applying both first and second variable length codings on AC components of a discrete cosine-transformed input digital signal to be equal to, or smaller than, a prescribed code amount.

According to Applicants, their method encompasses compressing, in a second compression system, a "first" bit stream that already has been compressed in a first compression system, so as to obtain a second bit stream. The first compression system uses a "first" variable length coding, while the second uses a "second" variable length coding. The code amount in the first compression system is controlled so that the code amount of the resulting second bit stream is maintained within a prescribed code amount. As a result, the (first) bit stream produced by the first compression system as well as the (second) bit stream produced by the second compression system can be transmitted.

Yanagihara fails to teach or fairly suggest the above described feature of claim 4. Yanagihara merely describes maintaining a code amount in one compression system within a prescribed code amount. Accordingly, Applicants advise, if the invention described by Yanagihara were applied to their presently claimed method, the second bit stream could not be transmitted.

In view of the above remarks, Applicants submit that this rejection is overcome. Hence, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

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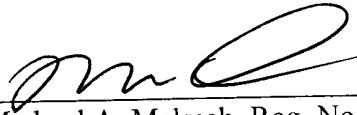
Applicants respectfully submit that this Request for Reconsideration and the above remarks obviate the outstanding rejection in this case, thereby placing the application in condition for immediate allowance. Allowance of this application is earnestly solicited.

If any additional fees under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17 are due in connection with this filing, please charge the fees to Deposit Account No. 02-4300; Order No. 033216.046.

If an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 is necessary that is not accounted for in the papers filed herewith, such an extension is requested. The extension fee should be charged to Deposit Account No. 02-4300; Order No. 033216.046.

Respectfully submitted,
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